

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 NIC-01 EB-07 OMB-01 /071 W

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R 131545Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3941

INFO AXMBASSY COPENHAGEN 3281

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

USMISSION NATO

DOD WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, XZ, FI, SW

SUBJECT: SWEDISH GENERAL'S STATEMENT PROVOKES FINNISH REPRESENTATION

REF: (A) STVKHOLM 0711; (B) HELSINKI 0313; (C) STOCKHOLM 5349

1. THE SWEDISH RADIO REPORTED FEB. 11 THAT THE FINNISH GOVERNMENT HAD MADE REPRESENTATIONS BOTH IN STOCKHOLM AND HELSINKI OVER THE STATEMENT BY SWEDISH SUPREME CMMANDER STIG SYNNERGREN IMPLYING THAT THE INTERGRATION OF SOVIET-FINNISH RAIL NETWORKS POSES A POTENTIAL THREAT TO SWEDEN. (AS REPORTED EARLIER, A SOVIET OFFICIAL LAST WEEK COMPLAINED INFORMALLY TO THE MFA ABOUT THE SYNNERGREN STAZ-MENT (REF A). ALTHOUGH SVENSKA DAGBLADET OF FEB 12 CARRIED DENIALS BY BOTH THE FINNISH FOREIGN MINISTRY AND THE SWEDISH AMBASSADOR IN HELSINKI THAT SUCH REPRESENTATIONS HAD BEEN MADE, THE SAME PAPER REPORTED THAT THE SWEDUH FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE FINNISH CHARGE

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D'AFFAIRES IN STOCKHOLM HAD MADE "VERY DISCREET" REPRE-

SENTATIONS TO THE MFA. (FINNISH CHARGE HAS CONFIRMED TO US THAT SHE DID RAISE THE SYNNERGREN STATEMENT WITH THE MFA, BUT EMPHASIZED THAT HER APPROACH DID NOT CONSTITUTE A DEMARCHE).

2. THE FINNISH APPROACH CONSTITUTES THE SECOND TIME IN RECENT MONTHS THAT HELSINKI HAS EXPRESSED DISPLEASURE AT ARTICLES ON FINNISH-SOVIET RELATIONS APPEARING IN THE SWEDISH PRESS. FORMER AMBASSADOR TO SWEDEN MAX JACOBSON HAD COMPLAINED LAST NOVEMBER TO THE MFA ABOUT AN ARTICLE IN SVENSKA DAGBLADET ALLEGING SOVIET EFFORTS TO INFLUENCE FINNISH POLITICS (REF C).

3. SWEDISH MFA OFFICIAL WITH WHOM EMBASSY OFFICER DISCUSSED MATTER SEEMED UNPERTURBED BY FINNISH REPRESENTATION. HOWEVER, HE EXPRESSED PUZZLEMENT ABOUT ARTICLE APPEARING IN FINNISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PAPER RECOMMENDING THAT FINLAND RECONSIDER HER INVOLVEMENT IN NGDIC COOPERATION AND STUDY POSSIBILITY OF BRINGING SOVIET UNION INTO BROADER SCANDINAVIAN COOPERATION (REF B). OFFICIAL INDICATED THAT GOS WAS INCLINED TO VIEW ARTICLE AS SIMPLE EFFORT BY FINNISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATS TO WIN POINTS WITH MOSCO BUT WAS NEVERTHELESS SURPRISED THAT PAPER REPRESENTING LARGEST PARTY IN FINLAND WOULD PROPOSE SUCH AN OBVIOUS NON-STARTER, SINCE HE CONSIDERS IT "OUT OF QUESTION" THAT OTHER NORDICS WOULD BE AGREEABLE TO SOVIET ROLE IN NORDIC COOPERATION. STRAUZ-HUPE

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